

Government Operations Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 18, 2010 9:30 AM
Scott Heyman Conference Room

Approved 3/18/10

Present: M. Lane, Chair; C. Chock; P. Pryor; D. McKenna; D. Kiefer (arrived at 9:39 a.m.)
Staff: C. Covert, Clerk of the Legislature; G. Potter, Information Technology Services Department; J. Wood, County Attorney; D. Squires, Finance Director; J. Mareane, County Administrator; M. Lynch, Public Information; P. Younger, Deputy County Administrator; J. Franklin, Interim Assessment Director; I. Kehoe, Assistant Assessment Director
Guests: S. Shackford, Ithaca Journal;
Legislators: M. Robertson, Chair of the Legislature; W. Burbank, Legislator

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

Changes to Agenda

A discussion concerning the broadband issue was added to the agenda.

Report from the Committee Chair

Mr. Lane said he agreed to have the broadband discussion added to the agenda as there may be some action that needs to be taken soon. Other topics he would like the committee to discuss this year include the establishment of committee goals, review sections of the Charter, and redistricting. The reason for discussing the subject of redistricting prior to the 2010 census being completed is to address some concerns Don Barber, Chair of the Tompkins County Council of Governments, has approached him with.

Report from the County Administrator

Mr. Mareane announced the new Human Resources Payroll system is now in the process of being implemented. The goal is to begin getting some employees on-line sometime mid-year. As some members of the Committee were unfamiliar with the project, Mr. Mareane and Mr. Squires explained in detail what the project is. The current record-keeping system will be replaced with an electronic management information system. The system will capture human resources information including overtime levels, number of employees, etc.

Ms. Kiefer arrived at this time.

Mr. Mareane continued his report and updated the Committee on the lean office training being offered through TC3.biz. An introductory meeting was held and a number of department heads attended particularly human services departments. He met and discussed this with the Human Services cabinet; they believe there could be some areas where this could be applied. The next steps will be to have another meeting with the department heads, TC3, and the consultants to get more information and decide how to proceed, including which pilots to consider.

He said he continues to seek input on the "white paper" he distributed recently to Legislators.

The Health Benefits Consortium continues to work with the labor unions on the plan to restructure and include a union seat on the board of directors. This proposal is making its rounds with the unions including a review by representatives in Albany. The new date for transition to the plan is April 1st.

Ms. Kiefer asked if there was an update on the Biggs Building. Mr. Mareane said the hospital has commissioned a second appraisal. He believes there will be a meeting with the hospital before the end of the month to discuss this in more detail. He noted that the hospital is the preferred buyer; however, other options will be considered if the hospital does not purchase the site.

Report from the County Attorney

Mr. Wood reported that he was asked by the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) to draft a law concerning road preservation in connection with gas drilling. This law was written so that it could be considered and adopted by individual towns and the County siting the appropriate provisions for each according to State law. The draft law will be presented to TCCOG at one of their upcoming meetings.

In response to Ms. Kiefer, Mr. Wood said he would like to get the reaction from TCCOG and the towns before the County begins proceeding. *He agreed as requested by Ms. Kiefer to present the draft law at the next Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.* It was also suggested that this Committee review it too.

Ms. Chock reported briefly on a meeting she attended with Don Barber, Chair of TCCOG, concerning how towns might proceed together on site plan review and zoning considerations. There was also discussion concerning road use agreements with a presentation from a team of engineers. She referenced a model that Sullivan County is proceeding with for evaluating roads and recommended Mr. Wood review this information. Mr. Wood said he is familiar with it and said it is an opinion that is very general. Mr. Wood said he is trying to be much more specific.

Mr. Wood continued with his report and said over the next several months he will be looking at proposals for the Solid Waste and Recycling Center. He will be keeping the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee informed.

Report from the Finance Director

Mr. Squires reported that the 2010 budget adopted for his department included \$55,000 in funding from the Health Benefits Consortium for staff support. The delay in the implementation of the program may create a "hole" in his budget. However, due to a retirement in his office, there may be some efficiencies.

Mr. Squires updated the Committee on the funding received through the Stimulus program. The County paid \$2.8 million for the Warren Road project before being reimbursed \$1.8 million. The second payment request for \$1 million is expected tomorrow. To alleviate some of the pressure of paying the bills, Mr. Squires said he borrowed \$2.5 million at year-end to pay the bills for that project.

He distributed a copy of the 2009 Foreclosure list of properties. He said this is the lowest level he has seen and also commented that he has not seen many of these properties before, which is unusual. One of the County's roles is to guarantee the municipality their taxes. The Ithaca City School District tax return received at the end of January grew by 14 % (10% without Lakeside Nursing Home), which he is looking at. Mr. Squires explained in detail the efforts to notify property owners of their options to avoid foreclosure.

Report from the Public Information Officer

Ms. Lynch updated the Committee on the 2010 Census efforts and said she is providing staff support to the Committee. Outreach is one of the areas she is focusing on. One effort is the development

of a flyer going out to many sources. Kevin Sutherland, employee in Administration, is setting up meetings with several organizations such as the Human Services Coalition, Chamber of Commerce, etc., to build on the outreach effort. There will also be coordinated public service announcement campaigns. It is going to be important that Legislators are involved with this to help get the message out to various communities and distributing flyers. Representatives from the colleges are also getting involved. The kick-off date for the public information effort is March 1st. She announced that the official Census Day is April 1st and the Committee is hoping that communities and organizations will have their own Census Days.

Ms. Pryor asked if a short, concise information piece could be developed for Legislators. The next Census Committee meeting is February 23rd.

Assessment Department

Resolution (DOC ID: 1797): Delegation of Authority to Authorize Certain Tax Refunds and Credits of \$2,500 and Under

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

WHEREAS, Section 554 of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes a tax-levying body to delegate the correction of tax rolls due to a clerical error, an error in essential fact, or an unlawful entry (an unlawful entry is any information on the tax roll that violates the Real Property Tax Law), and

WHEREAS, Section 556 of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes a tax-levying body to delegate the payment of tax refunds due to a clerical error, an error in essential fact, or an unlawful entry, and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Government Operations Committee, that such delegation would be more efficient in processing said refunds and therefore beneficial to the taxpayer, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the County Director of Assessment shall transmit corrections and/or refund recommendations to the County Administrator,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator is hereby authorized to allow payments of bills where recommended refund or credit is \$2,500 or less, without prior audit by the tax-levying body, in compliance with Paragraph 9 (a), (c) of Section 554, and Paragraph 8 (a), (c), (d), and Paragraph 9 and 10 of Section 556 of the Real Property Tax Law,

RESOLVED, further, That any refund or credit over \$2,500 must be approved by the Tompkins County Legislature pursuant to Paragraphs 8 (a), 9, and 10 of Section 566 of the Real Property Tax Law, except for refunds amounting to over \$2,500 as a result of Real Property Tax Law Article 7 litigation ordered by the New York State Supreme Court,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator shall transmit on or before the 15th day of each month a report to the Tompkins County Legislature of all the corrections and refunds processed,

RESOLVED, further, That this resolution shall only be in effect during the calendar year 2010.
SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Information Item or Transfer (DOC ID: 1800): Transfer

The Committee briefly reviewed the transfer; no action was required.

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Resolution (DOC ID: 1814): Appointment of Temporary Board of Assessment Review Hearing Members to Serve on Administrative Hearing Panels

Mr. Franklin briefly explained the resolution below and said Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) requires these temporary appointments be done annually. Ms. Chock asked why these members receive compensation when other members of advisory boards do not. It was believed that because of the required training and attendance at the hearing(s) these individuals are entitled to compensation pursuant to the RPTL. Mr. Mareane said he would compare these appointments to the Board of Elections inspectors who are asked to give up a full day and receive a stipend. *Ms. Pryor and Ms. Chock understand the rationale but would like to revisit this issue later this year.*

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
SECONDER:	Pat Pryor, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law 523-a permits the County Legislature to appoint up to six Temporary Board of Assessment Review members to serve on Administrative Review Panels, and

WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law 523-a permits the compensation of Temporary Board of Assessment Review Members, and

WHEREAS, the following six members have served on these panels in previous years and wish to continue their service, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That six Temporary Board of Assessment Review Members, namely Jan deRoos, Edward Laine, Robert Walpole, Michael Cannon, Susan Lustick and Judy VanNest be appointed to serve on Administrative Review Panels,

RESOLVED, further, That Temporary Board of Assessment Review members be compensated at a maximum annual compensation of \$250.00 each.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Report or Discussion Item (DOC ID: 1815): 2010 Continual Equity Maintenance Program

Mr. Franklin began with introducing Irene Kehoe, Assistant Assessment Director, who has worked for the County for ten years. Mr. Franklin said the continual equity maintenance program is the annual assessment program and the department is constantly striving for equity. He said that although the end of the year for Assessment is May 1st, assessment change notices will be going out March 12th as the first step for property owners in time to review and research information.

The department is beginning to see a slow downturn in the real estate market; however, Tompkins County has not seen the same trends as other parts of the nation. Some of the possible contributors could be:

- Availability of lending dollars
- Lack of foreclosures as a result of good lending practices
- Low unemployment (compared to national average)
- Stabilizing influence of Cornell University and Ithaca College
- Lack of significant appreciation rates in prior years
- Lack of speculative building

Mr. Franklin provided an overview of how the analysis of assessment-to-sale price ratio is done and the outlook for 2011 Continual Equity Maintenance Program. The 2010 roll is based on the value as of July 1, 2009, and the 2011 roll will be based on the July 1, 2010 roll. He highlighted some of the issues the Department continues to monitor and that may cause some concerns in the future:

- Oil/gas leasing effecting property values;
- Reduced State and Federal funding;
- Websites being created that offer camera-computer assisted mass appraisal resources;
- Potential closing of the Fall Creek Elementary school and the impact it could have on the properties in the area.

Mr. Franklin said he will be presenting this report to the full Legislature on March 16th.

Ms. Kiefer said a number of years ago the Cayuga Heights elementary school temporarily closed and spoke of an earlier gas lease boom; she suggested there could be some historical information available that could assist the department in determining how properties were impacted at that time. Mr. Franklin said sales data only goes back to 1990 in a digital format and earlier date would be very difficult to pull together and do any analysis.

Mr. Franklin said that reminder phone calls will be going out this afternoon to senior citizens reminding them to renew their exemptions.

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Administration

Resolution (DOC ID: 1765): Approval of Designations of Successors

Ms. Kiefer asked about the Medical Examiner deputy titles listed and said that as presented it does not identify who is next in line, noting that last year this was clarified by including the two deputies names. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Mareane said he will follow-up on this prior to the Legislature meeting.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

WHEREAS, Section 31.07 of the County Charter specifies that the County Administrator and specified department heads shall designate in writing, and in order of succession, the deputies (or in the absence of officially designated deputies, the employees of the department) who shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the principal in the event of the latter's absence from the County or inability to perform or exercise the powers of the office, and

WHEREAS, the Charter further requires those designations, except department heads elected on a countywide basis, to be approved by the Tompkins County Legislature, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the following designations of successors are hereby approved,

RESOLVED, further, That this list is complete and supercedes all previous designations:
Airport Manager: Assistant Airport Manager
Operations Supervisor and ARFF Chief
Airport Terminal Services Coordinator

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County Administrator: Deputy County Administrator
County Attorney
Comptroller

County Attorney: Deputy County Attorney

Commissioner of Social Services: Director of Services
Communication Center Manager
Staff Development and Quality Coordinator

Director of Emergency Response: Communication Systems Manager
Assistant Fire and Emergency Management Director
Communication Center Manager

Public Health Director: Public Health Administrator (May act on a temporary basis only)
Director of Patient Services

Medical Examiner: Deputy Medical Examiner
Deputy Medical Examiner

Mental Health Commissioner: Deputy Commissioner Mental Health Clinical:
Medical Director
Clinic Supervisor-Clinic Assessment and Continuing Day Treatment
Clinic Supervisor-Outpatient Services Administration:
Fiscal Coordinator
Administrative Services Coordinator

Director of Finance: Budget and Finance Manager
Director of Accounting Services

Commissioner of Personnel: Deputy Commissioner of Personnel

Commissioner of Planning and Public Works: Planning:
Deputy Commissioner of Planning
Principal Planner
Public Works by Division:
Airport: Airport Manager
Facilities: Director of Facilities
Highway: Highway Manager
Solid Waste: Solid Waste Manager

Elected Officials: For Information Only

Sheriff: Under Sheriff
District Attorney: Assistant District Attorney
County Clerk: Deputy County Clerk

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Resolution (DOC ID: 1831): Approving Revisions and Abolishing Policies and Procedures of the Tompkins County Government Administrative Policy Manual

Ms. Kiefer asked about the impact review statement. Ms. Younger said this policy has been in a revision stage for quite some time and predate development(s) of the new review process. She said the changes made to the policy coincide with the Emergency Management Plan and the new procedures adopted by departments for continuity of operations. *Ms. Kiefer asked that future agendas identify the subject matter of the policy(s) being considered.* Ms. Chock spoke about major employers sending employees home when the decision is made to close roads and believes that to be a public safety issue. Discussion followed concerning the closing of roads and Ms. Kiefer thought the Sheriff was the only individual to make the decision to close the roads and believes a statement to that effect should be included in the policy. Ms. Younger said a statement could be added. Ms. Kiefer also suggested adding to the policy title "on an emergency basis".

Mr. Wood stated the policy is not supposed to address who closes the roads; it's supposed to address what is done when the roads are closed. Under law, the Sheriff has the power to close the roads, and the policy is to address what the County is to do.

The Committee agreed to add the statement about the Sheriff making the decision to close the roads.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pat Pryor, Member
SECONDER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of Tompkins County government to have policies and procedures that are current, accurate, and consistent, and

WHEREAS, the following administrative policy requires revision to more accurately reflect current regulations and procedures, and

WHEREAS, this administrative policy has been reviewed and processed according to the guidelines of Policy 01-04: Modifying the Administrative Manual: The Policies and Procedures of Tompkins County Government:

Policy 01-42: Closing, Suspension, or Modification of County Operations

WHEREAS, this policy also has been reviewed by the Government Operations Committee, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the following revised Administrative Policy is hereby adopted:

Policy 01-42: Closing, Suspension, or Modification of County Operations

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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**CLOSING, SUSPENSION, OR MODIFICATION OF COUNTY OPERATIONS
ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS**

Objective:

To establish policy for suspending or modifying county functions or operations, and/ or closing county divisions, departments, and/or facilities during extraordinary situations or conditions and to assure that the capability exists to continue essential functions in response to a broad spectrum of emergencies or operational interruptions.

01-42

*Policy/Procedure
Number:*

Reference:
*(All Applicable
Federal, State and
Local Laws)*

New York State (NYS) Emergency Management and
Homeland Security Authorities:

- NY Executive Laws, Article 2-B, Section 29-b
- NY Executive Laws, Article 2-B, Section 23
- NY Executive Laws, Article 2-B, Section 24
- NY Executive Laws, Article 2-B, Section 25
- NY Executive Laws, Article 2-B, Section 27
- NY General Municipal Laws, Article 10, Section 209-f2
- NY Civil Service Laws, Article 5, Section 82-b

Tompkins County Legislature:

“Approval of Designation of Successors” resolution, which is
revised and adopted at the beginning of each operating year.

Collective Bargaining Agreements in Tompkins County:

- CSEA White Collar Unit Local 855 Agreement
- CSEA Blue Collar Unit Local 8900-1 of Local 855
Agreement
- Tompkins County Correction Officers Union Local 2062
Agreement
- The Employees Union of the Tompkins County Sheriff’s
Department Agreement

**Legislative Policy
Statement:**

It is the policy of Tompkins County government to sustain
essential services to residents and businesses at all times.
However, there may arise extraordinary situations or
conditions that, out of a paramount concern for the safety and
welfare of County employees and the citizens they serve,
warrant the closure of some or all County operations and/or
facilities. In the event of such a closure and/or disruption of
public service, it is the County’s policy to rapidly re-deploy
its labor force and resources to resume essential services.

Effective Date: November 21,
1995

**Responsible
Department:**

County
Administration

Modified Date (s): November 2009

Resolution No.:

General Information:

The County Administrator shall have the sole authority to formally suspend County operations or to close some or all County offices. The decision to close, suspend, or modify County operations may be coordinated with the Chair of the Legislature and authorized public safety officials, and if required, authorized public works and information technology services personnel. The potential impact on the personal safety and welfare of county employees, the individuals they serve, and Tompkins County residents will be the primary criteria for making decisions for suspending or modifying operations and/or closing county departments or facilities.

The “Procedure” section below, describes processes for managing the closing of a single division or department, multiple divisions or departments, all divisions or departments, and/or related facilities as the result of natural or man-made disasters or emergencies or other situations and circumstances impacting functions and operations.

Definitions:

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP): A formal plan prepared by each County department explaining how that department will continue essential functions across a broad spectrum of emergencies.

Extraordinary Situations: Natural or man-made conditions or events that are outside the parameters of accepted norms causing impacts on operations or interruption of services.

Essential Employees: Employees, as designated by their department head based on the situation, whose skills and abilities are needed for supporting emergency or critical functions during an extraordinary situation (e.g., police/deputies, emergency response dispatchers, firefighters, cleaning staff, maintenance staff, equipment operators, equipment mechanics, and nurses).

Procedure:

Section I. —Closing Considerations

The following list contains typical examples when closing considerations would apply and what processes would be followed, and serves as guidance for managing other situations not specifically referenced:

Weather Related: As Tompkins County is located in central New York, it is expected that there will be weather conditions that will involve travel in less than ideal conditions. However, extraordinarily hazardous weather events may occur that may warrant the closure of some or all County facilities. In the event such weather events are forecast with probable certainty, the County Administrator may consult with the Chair of the County Legislature, Sheriff, Public Works Commissioner, and Director of Emergency Response and determine whether to close some or all County facilities and/or operations. The decision will be made as far in advance as possible to allow notification to department heads and employees, and to allow for an orderly closure.

Closing of the Roads: When the decision is made to close all roads in the county, all non-public safety county divisions, departments, and facilities not engaged in responding to the emergency conditions or in 24/7 operations (such as the Jail) will be closed for the same period of time that the roads are closed. During the period in which all roads are closed, employees of division, departments, and facilities other than those exceptions described above are not to report to work

unless directed to do so by their department head based on their essential role in maintaining the continuity of vital government operations.

The closure of some roads, but not all, does not cause the closure of County operations other than those that may be directly affected by the road closure.

The decision to close roads is determined by the appropriate authority (currently, the Chief of Police of the City of Ithaca for roads within the Ithaca city limits, and the Sheriff for roads outside of the city).

Facilities Related: When in the judgment of the County Administrator, who in consultation with the Facilities Director, Information Technology Services (ITS) Director, and the relevant department head(s), determines that a county-owned, leased, or maintained facility is unusable, the County Administrator will close the facility, and assist in making arrangements to relocate the operations of any division or department in that facility to another location. The relevant department head(s) will notify the impacted employees as soon as a decision is made that alters normal work processes and locations.

Immediate Threat to Safety: Any acts that threaten the immediate safety of the employees, building users, adjacent residents, and visitors will be addressed as high priority. Department heads or their designee(s) will have the responsibility for getting all employees and building visitors out of harms way as quickly as possible, getting them away from the immediate area (i.e., rapid exit of the building, removal of departmental and personal vehicles adjacent to the building, etc.), and notifying emergency response. As soon as possible, the County Administrator will be notified of the situation and advised of the decisions made by the department head(s) or designee(s). The County Administrator or his/her designee, in consultation with the relevant department head(s) or designee(s) and appropriate public safety officials, will make the determination to close a facility or suspend department operations for reasons related to threat to safety. Please refer to the County Safety Policy for additional information:
<http://www.tompkins-co.org/msds/>.

Epidemic or Pandemic: There may arise situations in which the spread of serious infectious diseases may warrant the closure of one or more County facilities and/or operations. In the event of such situations, the County Administrator will consult with the Chair of the County Legislature, the Director of Public Health, and the County's Medical Director to determine if closure is appropriate and, if so, to implement a closure plan consistent with advice provided by public health professionals. In the event of such closures, employees may be called upon to assist as needed in roles outside their normal duties and work locations.

Section II. —Continuity of Operations Plan

On or before June 2010, each division and department will develop and maintain an updated Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). In the event of extraordinary conditions or situations that will have impacts on staffing, departments will follow procedures as outlined in the plans. These plans are to include and define what functions and operations are essential, how they will continue, human resources needed to support the functions and operations, and alternate locations or procedures that would be implemented in these instances. The department's COOP and any subsequent revisions should be disseminated to and discussed with all departmental employees to assist in expediting the plan in an actual situation. Department Heads are responsible for ensuring that a copy of their department's most current COOP is on file with the Department of County Administration.

A decision to activate a department's COOP plan, or the COOP plans for the entire County will depend on the circumstances of a potential or actual event. Should the need arise to activate a COOP, the Department Head should notify the County Administrator (or designee) as soon as possible.

Section III. —Notification

County divisions and departments will utilize pre-determined communication processes to notify all employees when there are extraordinary conditions or situations that impact them and/or their work place. The County Public Information Officer will be responsible for notifying local and regional media as quickly as possible.

Section IV. —Compensation

In the event that a division, department, and/or facility needs to be closed during normal work hours, please refer to appropriate bargaining unit contracts for compensation information. Employees not represented by a bargaining unit will follow the provisions established in the CSEA White Collar contract.

Legislature

Resolution (DOC ID: 1796): Approval of Appointment to the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Carol Chock, Member
SECONDER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Council of Governments is an association of local governments organized to provide a forum of discussion, study, and negotiation leading to agreements for more efficient, improved, and/or less costly delivery of government services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That Martha Robertson be appointed as the voting member and Dooley Kiefer as the alternate member to the Tompkins County Council of Governments.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Resolution (DOC ID: 1798): Approval of 2010 Succession of Members of the County Legislature to Serve in the Absence of the Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Kiefer said she has suggested in years past to try not to have the list by title, but has not succeeded. She said this designation takes into consideration Legislative experience as stated in the second Whereas and believes Legislator Lane should be included in the list.

It was MOVED by Ms. Kiefer, seconded by Mr. McKenna, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to amend the resolution to change the Chair, Public Safety Committee to Chair, Government Operations Committee.

Vote on Resolution as Amended:	
RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Pat Pryor, Member
SECONDER:	David McKenna, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

WHEREAS, Section 2.06 of the County Charter, specifies the succession of members of the Legislature be designated annually by resolution to serve in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, and

WHEREAS, the Government Operations Committee recommends the chairs of standing committees be designated taking into consideration availability and Legislative experience, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the following order of succession of County Legislators for the year 2010 or until successors are appointed be approved to serve in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair:

Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Chair, Government Operations Committee

Chair, Budget, Capital and Finance Committee

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Appointment (DOC ID: 1801): Ethics Advisory Board

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

Ethics Advisory Board

Faust Rossi – term expires December 31, 2013

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Other - Action Item (DOC ID: 1772): Liaison Assignments

Public Information Advisory Board

Pat Pryor - Liaison

Library Board of Trustees

The Committee postponed assigning a liaison until the meeting schedule was known.

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Appointment Policy

Ms. Chock asked if there was a policy for liaison assignments and/or Legislators serving on advisory boards as appointed members. Ms. Kiefer said there is no policy. Liaison assignments are done voluntarily. *The Committee requested a complete list of liaison assignments for all program committees and to discuss this issue at the next meeting.*

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Minutes Approval (DOC ID: 1802): December 11, 2009

RESULT:	COMMITTEE APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

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Minutes Approval (DOC ID: 1803): January 19, 2010

RESULT:	COMMITTEE APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
SECONDER:	David McKenna, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

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Minutes Approval (DOC ID: 1816): February 2, 2010

RESULT:	COMMITTEE APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
SECONDER:	David McKenna, Member
AYES:	Lane, Chock, Kiefer, McKenna, Pryor

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Discussion on Broadband

Ms. Younger reported on two broadband items. The first involves engaging the Tompkins County Council of Governments in joining in a joint application being prepared by the Southern Tier East Regional Planning and Development Board (STERPDB). They have contracted with a firm from Rochester, New York, ECC Technologies, that is working with the board to query a number of counties to submit an application for the next round of Stimulus money for broadband to build a fiber backbone from Binghamton to Rochester. Tompkins County is part of the multi-county regional application. There are towns that have submitted letters of support. Ms. Younger is recommending the County consider preparing a letter of support as well. The application is due March 15th. Mr. Potter clarified that there are 11 counties involved and the project is based on a governance structure that has not yet been defined.

Following further discussion, it was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Kiefer, and unanimously adopted by voice vote, to authorize the Chair of the Legislature to sign a letter in support of the application.

Ms. Younger said the second item relating to broadband is the request from Google to launch their experiment of ultra high-speed broadband. They are looking for pilot sites and are querying all communities across the country to complete a Request for Information (RFI) about details of the overall interest to see which sites best qualify as a pilot site. Google is encouraging local governments to be involved. Ms. Younger asked the Committee for guidance and direction if the County is interested. She said the information that would need to be pulled together requires a lot of detail and she would suggest a coordination committee be created. A brief discussion followed concerning the suggestion of identifying

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three or four people to work on this. Mr. Potter characterized Google's approach as a proof-of-concept project, and speculated that Google is probably less interested in rural use than in high-end users. Ms. Younger said she would also be following up with Cornell University and Ithaca College. The deadline for applying is March 21st

It was MOVED by Ms. Pryor, seconded by Mr. McKenna, to authorize Administration to pursue this. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 4; Noes – 1 (Kiefer). MOTION CARRIED.

The following Committee and Legislature members expressed interest in participating with a small group: Carol Chock, Mike Lane, Pat Pryor, and Will Burbank. Mr. Potter believes that Tompkins County does not have the proper resources to pursue collective projects for broadband implementation.

Report or Discussion Item (DOC ID: 1823): Departmental Goals - Discussion

Mr. Lane asked Committee members to submit a list of three top goals for the Committee to consider. *Ms. Kiefer asked that the 2009 Committee goals be made available to the Committee.* She said she would like to see the continuation of updating the Administrative Manual.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.